

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

**Claim 1-6 and 8 (canceled).**

**Claim 7 (currently amended)**

A method of controlling a printing apparatus which needs to periodically execute maintenance operation after activation, said printing apparatus having counting means with a power abnormal flag inside said counting means, operated by power supplied from a battery, for counting time on the basis of an internal time, the method comprising:

setting a flag in a register when a battery abnormality has occurred in said counting means;

determining whether the battery abnormality has occurred based on the status of the flag set in said flag setting step;

refreshing the internal time with a predetermined time when the battery abnormality has occurred based on the result from said determining step;

designating execution of a maintenance operation on the basis of the internal time;  
and

clearing the flag after said refreshing step.